

Message Text

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-----043935 251958Z /40

O 251946Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, IT

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE VISIT OF ADMIRAL MAININI TO WASHINGTON

REFS:

- A. ROME 2440 (DTG 081222Z FEB 78);
- B. USNATO 1098

1. WE ARE INCLINED TO WELCOME ADMIRAL MAININI'S PROPOSED
VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SOME
OF THE ISSUES IN THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE AND TO SET
PRECEDENT FOR DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN FUTURE IEPG CHAIRMAN
AND THE US. AT SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE COULD
INADVERTENTLY GET OURSELVES WEDGED IN BETWEEN ITALIANS,
NOW ENDING THEIR SECOND TERM AS IEPG CHAIRMAN BUT
POSSIBLY SEEKING TO CONTINUE IN THIS ROLE, AND OTHER
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IEPG MEMBERS.

2. WE BELIEVE THIS RISK IS ACCEPTABLE, AND WE WOULD GET
A READING ON THIS SCORE WHEN MAININI WOULD SHOW OUR
LETTER TO OTHER MEMBERS AS HE PUSHES FOR A CONSENSUS
ON HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. WE ON OUR SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC,
WOULD HAVE TO INFORM OUR CANADIAN PARTNERS OF MAININI'S

PLANS IF THE VISIT MATURES.

3. EMBASSY ROME THEREFORE SHOULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING
LETTER TO ADMIRAL MAININI. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR ADMIRAL MAININI:

IN THE COURSE OF OUR PREPARATIONS FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS
IN THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE, IT HAS OCCURRED TO US
THAT WE MIGHT PROFITABLY HAVE AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE ON
SOME OF THE MORE GENERAL ISSUES WE FACE IN THE DIALOGUE.
I AM NOT THINKING OF A DISCUSSION OF PARTICULAR PROJECTS,
BUT RATHER OF AN INITIAL BROAD-RANGING REVIEW OF SOME OF
THE UNDERLYING ISSUES THAT WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN
UP IN DEPTH IN THE COURSE OF THE DIALOGUE. IT MIGHT BE
USEFUL IF WE COULD HAVE SUCH AN EXCHANGE IN THE NEXT MONTH
OR TWO, WHILE -- OR EVEN BEFORE -- WE GET DEEPLY INVOLVED
IN THE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS OF THE DIALOGUE PROPER.

IF YOU AGREE WITH THIS IDEA, JAMES E. GOODBY, DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE
TO JOIN IN THIS EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. SINCE JIM AND I
DON'T HAVE COINCIDENT OVERSEAS TRAVEL PLANS AT THIS
TIME, I WONDER WHETHER YOU WOULD ENTERTAIN COMING TO
WASHINGTON FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ON THESE
MATTERS.

WARM REGARDS,

WILLIAM J. PERRY
USDR AND E

END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

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